

NATIVE NEWS

COMPILED BY DYANI BINGHAM

Powwow Calendar

It's powwow season again. Here's a schedule of summer gatherings:

- 116th Arlee 4th of July Celebration, July 2-6 in Arlee (406-745-2727 or arleepowwow.com)
- Fourth of July Powwow, July 3-6 in Lame Deer (406-477-6284 or www.cheyennenation.com)
- Valley of the Chiefs Powwow and Rodeo, July 4-6 in Lodge Grass (406-638-3525)
- 63rd Annual North American Indian Days, July 10-13 in Browning, (406-338-5194 or 406-338-7521, www.browningmontana.com/naid.html)
- Wahcinca Dokata Oyate Celebration, July 25-27 in Poplar (406-768-7772)
- Milk River Indian Days, July 25-27 at Fort Belknap Agency (406-353-2281)
- Heart Butte Celebration, Aug. 7-10 at Heart Butte (406-338-7370)
- Crow Fair and Rodeo, Aug. 14-18 at Crow Agency (406-638-3808)
- Hays Powwow, Aug. 15-17 in Hays (406-673-3282)
- Little Shell Chippewa Powwow, Aug. 23-24 in Great Falls (406-590-1745)
- Poplar Indian Days, Aug. 28-31 in Poplar (406-768-7623)
- Ashland Labor Day Powwow, Aug. 29-Sept. 1 in Ashland (406-784-2883)

Powwow 101

Did you know? The powwow is a time to celebrate through dancing, drumming, visiting, laughing, eating together, and camping. Powwows are a testament to the resilience of Native people because dancing was one of the first aspects of Native American culture to come under attack by missionaries and the federal government.

In the late 1800s the federal government mistook any form of dancing for war dancing. Over 40 years passed under these conditions, until the 1920's when the people were again allowed to dance and practice parts of their religion.

Did you know? The beautiful regalia worn by many dancers is a labor of love. Friends and family work all year long to make outfits for the next powwow season.

It is important to understand that the designs, colors and motifs in the regalia are specific to the person or family or tribe. There is usually a story behind the colors and designs that is unique to that individual and their family.

It is unethical to copy designs, even though you might find them extremely beautiful. If you find yourself wanting to copy a design or motif, please refrain. This is done out of respect and ensures the survival of family or individual designs.

Did you know? The trick song is kind of like a contest between dancers and singers. The drummers try to fool the dancers into missing a beat or failing to stop on time. The crowd loves trick songs and it is always fun to see if the dancer can beat the singer by stopping at the right time.

Source: Indian Education for All: Your Guide to Understanding and Enjoying Powwows by Murton McCluskey (opi.mt.gov/pdf/IndianEd/Resources/PowWows.pdf)

Are you interested in learning more about how tribes in Montana greet each other in their Native languages? Check out the following link on the Office of Public Instruction website and listen to greetings in Blackfeet, Cheyenne, Salish, Crow, Sioux, Assiniboiné, White Clay and Cree: opi.mt.gov/programs/indianed/greetings.html.



Dancer at Crow Fair, Aug. 14-18 at Crow Agency. (Photo by Dyani Bingham)

Montana Folk Festival hosts First Peoples' Market

The seventh First Peoples' Market, July 11-13 at the Montana Folk Festival in Butte, will offer the work of Indian artists and craftspeople, and will include both deeply traditional crafts and more contemporary artistic expressions rooted in Native American experience.

Artists in this market represent some of the finest working today. Some have been recognized nationally for their skill and talent in a variety of beautiful art forms. These have included painting, antler carving, parfleche works, hide paintings, ledger art, star quilting, doll making, jewelry, and many other expressions of traditional techniques.

The complete list of invited artists and images of their art can be found at www.montanafolkfestival.com.

Admission is free to all areas of the festival, including all musical performances and the First Peoples' Market. For more information, including

schedules and other details, visit the website, like the festival on Facebook, www.facebook.com/mtfolkfest, or call 406-497-6464.

MHS seeks to purchase collection of Crow images

The Montana Historical Society hopes to purchase nearly 2,800 vintage photographic prints that are part of the Bud Lake and Randy Brewer Collection of Historic Crow Indian Photographs. The collection also includes hundreds of documents and reference materials about the Montana tribe.

According to the *Billings Gazette*, Lake is asking \$209,675 for the collection, based on his estimate of what it cost him to buy the items individually. He began collecting the images and artifacts 30 years ago.

The Montana Historical Society has raised about one-quarter of the purchase price and is in possession of the collection, which can't be publicly displayed until it's purchased in full.

Molly Kruckenberg, research center manager for the Montana Historical Society, told the *Gazette* that the collection includes some of the earliest photographs of the Crow people. "It captures a really pivotal moment of change from traditional to reservation life for the Crow Indians," she said.

The historical society is seeking grants and donations to buy the collection, and hopes to complete the purchase by the end of the year.

The acquisition is supported by the Crow Tribe. A letter from Emerson Bull Chief, Tribal Historic Preservation officer, reads: "The Crow Cultural Committee supports the work of the Montana Historical Society in acquiring the Bud Lake and Randy Brewer Collection of historic Crow photographs. Opportunities for collaboration between the MHS and the Crow Tribe abound with this project and we look forward to working together."

— From the *Billings Gazette*, June 8

First Peoples Fund calls for applications

The First Peoples Fund is accepting applications for its Artist in Business Leadership Program and Cultural Capital programs through Sept. 1.

Artist in Business Leadership

Purpose: To cultivate entrepreneurial artists to a small business level (consistent and reliable income) where business concepts are understood and applied.

The strategy: First Peoples Fund selects artists based on demonstrated artistic talent, evidence of possessing the qualities of an entrepreneur, and indication of embodying the values of the fund.

This self-directed, independent business arts fellowship is a one-year program supported by individualized professional development training, and working capital funds to strengthen participants' marketing strategies. The fellowship also provides a focus on new work to stimulate creativity and a renewal of energy in Native art expression.

Eligibility: Artist applicants must be in mid career (five-plus years) in their experience in marketing their art at Indian art markets and galleries, and have wholesale experience. Artists will have chosen art as a means to obtain economic self-sufficiency for their family and to establish themselves as independent, credible artists with viable community-based businesses. They must be members of approved tribes (see below); and must demonstrate a strong vision and articulated plan for implementing effective market strategies over the one-year fellowship period and will effectively use this opportunity to explore new works and demonstrate marketing initiative effectively.

Grant amount: \$5,000

Application deadline: Sept. 1, 2014

Cultural Capital Program

The purpose: This program provides tradition bearers of tribal communities the opportunity to further their important cultural work. The program is designed to support previous year Community Spirit Award recipients, allowing them to commit more time to teaching and sharing their ancestral knowledge and practices with others who want to learn.

The strategy: The grant program will aid artists in developing local networks for leveraging other resources and will provide technical assistance and capacity-building support as needed by the master artist/teacher.

First Peoples Fund is interested in Cultural Capital projects that will impact the next generation through reciprocity and community spirit. Examples of this are:

- Passing on knowledge – as mentors and leaders;
- Documentation for the next seven generations to access this knowledge; and
- Artists as cultural resources.

Eligibility: Artist applicants must be a past FPF Community Spirit Award recipient or nominee finalist, or a member of an approved tribe (see below). Applicants may also be invited by FPF or nominated by a Community Spirit Award recipient.

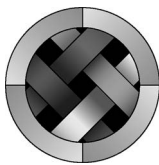
Grant amount: \$5,000

Application deadline: Sept. 1, 2014

Tribal affiliation (applies to both grants):

Applicants for both awards must be members of a Northern Great Plains tribe (including Montana), the Eastern Plateau region of Idaho, Oregon and Washington, the Great Lakes Region, or Eastern Seaboard states, or be Native Hawaiian or belong to an Alaska Native tribe. Affiliated Canadian First Nations artist applicants are eligible.

For more information, visit www.firstpeoplesfund.org, call 605-348-0324 or email miranne@firstpeoplesfund.org.



Powwow season

Montana is home to seven reservations and an array of Indian tribes: the Assiniboiné (Nakoda), Blackfeet (Niitsitapi), Crow (Apsaalooke), Chippewa Cree (Anishinabe Ne-i-yah-wahk), Gros Ventre (Aaninin), Northern Cheyenne (Tsitsistas and So'taeo'o), Sioux (Dakota), Salish and Kootenai (Selish Ktunaxa) and Little Shell.

The state tourism website offers an Indian Nations travel guide, with an audio pronunciation guide, information on understanding and enjoying powwows, a guide to tribal histories and more. Go to www.visitmt.com/Places_To_Go/indian_nations/.

Seven Lodges

Another great travel resource, also located at visitmt.com, is the *Seven Lodges – Montana Tribal Tourism Handbook*, which highlights American Indian hospitality, powwow etiquette, traveling tips, Indian Arts and Crafts Law, driving tips, cell-phone service and law enforcement info. The guide also provides introductions to each tribal nation in Montana and highlights places to shop, eat, stay and shop.